



# St. James Lutheran Church

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## Serving in God’s House in December

**Trustee:** December 4 – Brian Milleville  
December 11– Brian DeVantier  
December 18– Andrew North  
December 25- Dave Antonelli

**Acolytes:** December 4 – Faith Cornelius  
December 11– Eliana Higgins  
December 18– Megan Gizzarelli  
December 25- Kiera Dysard

**Communion Assist:** December 4 – Donna Driess  
December 18– Margaret Wittmeyer  
December 25- Justin DeVantier

**Readers:** December 4 – Katie Dysard  
December 11– Bob Gardiner  
December 18– Andrea Haseley  
December 24- Kelli Kaminska  
December 25- MaryAnn Kowalski

**Altar Care:** Jane Milleville

**Organist:** December 4 – Jennifer Parris  
December 11– Janet Galvano  
December 18– Jennifer Parris  
December 21- Jennifer Parris  
December 24 5pm- Janet Galvano  
7pm- Jennifer Parris  
December 25- Janet Galvano

**Channel 2 and 4 for weather closings**

Christmas Eve: 5pm- Candlelight Service  
7pm Children’s Christmas eve Program

Christmas Day- 9:15am Worship

**Save the date:** Our annual fellowship meal will be held on Saturday February 4th. Tickets will be going on sale in January, as in the past you are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Check upcoming bulletins for further details (costs etc.)

**The annual congregational meeting** will on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 in the fellowship hall. Per our constitution the only agenda items are election of officers, 2023 budget and 2023 worship services.

In honor of Melvin DeVantier’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, \$90 was given to the endowment fund, and \$90 was given to the capital improvement fund.

In honor of Melvin and Gail’s DeVantier’s 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary, \$135 was given to the general funds.

In memory of Charles Schmidt, \$25 was given to caring friends

**Poinsettias!** If you would like to share the joy of the Christmas season by placing a poinsettia - in honor or memory of a loved one - in our sanctuary, we ask that you have the plants at church between Friday, Dec. 16 and Saturday, Dec. 17, (by 2 pm) so that they can be used for the Dec. 18-25 services. Kindly do not bring them to church prior to the 16th, as they need watering very frequently! After the Christmas Day service, you may take them home with you if you like - or leave them for the Jan. 1st service. Thank you!

**Service for the Longest Night:**

With the Christmas holiday season upon us, many of us are looking forward to the joyous events which surround this time of year. But this is not the case for many who have lost a loved one this year.

Many of these folks are having to deal with uncertainty as they face this Advent and Christmas without their loved one for the first time. The Service for the Longest Night is being held especially for these members of our congregation. The service will be held on **December 21, 2022, at 7pm**, and it will include scripture, song and prayer. All are invited to come and support our members who are not necessarily feeling the joy of the season as we pray with them, and as we just take a few moments to be present with them before the Lord.

**CARING FRIENDS** extends a sincere “Thank You” to all members of St. James who participated in this year’s Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Through your efforts we were able to provide 44 bags of food and 50 turkeys, bought at Pellicano’s Market Place, to the North Tonawanda Food Pantry. Your generosity is very much appreciated!

**Family Advent**

Many think of Advent as the beginning of the Christmas season, but in fact, according to the Church calendar, it is the period of time prior to the Christmas season. It always begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day.

The word advent, from Latin, means “the coming.” For centuries, Advent has been a time of spiritual reflection as well as cheer and anticipation. Advent is still a time of reflection and anticipation, with a mix of ancient and modern traditions. One of those traditions is the Advent wreath.

Advent wreaths have their origins in the folk traditions of northern Europe, where in the deep of winter people lit candles on wheel-shaped bundles of evergreen. Both the evergreen and the circular shape symbolized ongoing life. The candlelight gave comfort at this darkest time of the year, as people looked forward to the longer days of spring.

An Advent wreath traditionally contains three purple candles; symbolizing hope, peace, and love, and one rose colored candle; symbolizing joy, and is usually lit on the third Sunday. There is no hard and fast rule on the color of the candles, and some traditions will attribute different meanings to each candle. Nonetheless, an Advent wreath can be a wonderful addition to your Christmas time traditions.

Let me encourage each family of St. James, if you are not doing so already, to begin a new tradition with an Advent wreath. It doesn’t even need to be a wreath. Kelli and I just got a new Advent candle holder in the shape of a crown. The important part is this: Gather the family every evening in Advent, lighting the candle for that week and having a time of family devotions.

Nothing brings a family closer than a time of family prayer. Take time this Advent season, as a family, in spiritual reflection and anticipation of the coming of our Lord and Savior. Let the Joy of this season fill you and bring you closer together as a family.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Randy*

*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.  
(Ephesians 6:4)*